(e) whether Government propose to do away the practice of Police Verification in cases where Character Verification Certificate issued by authorised official on his letterpad is enclosed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A short validity passport is issued to an applicant on the basis of a Character Verification Certificate issued by authorised officials of State and Central Government when the applicant has submitted documentary proof of urgency for travel abroad.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All such applications are subjected to ex-post facto Police Verification. If adverse Police report is received, a letter is written to the officer concerned asking for an explanation. The matter is also referred to the Home Department of the State concerned for taking action as deemed fit.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Police Verification is an essential step in the process of issuance of a passport.

OIC's Efforts to serve the right of Self-Determination of Kashmiris

2224. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 51-nation Organisation of Islamic Countries have resolved to intensify efforts to "serve the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir";

(b) whether the OIC have set up a "contact group" comprising Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Nigeria and Morocco for this purpose;

(c) whether Government have made or propose to make it clear to the nations of the "contact group" that it consider their membership of the group and activities of the groups as unfriendly acts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Seventh Extraordinary Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Islamabad on September 7—9 1994 had decided to set up an OIC 'Contact Group' on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations in New York, "to coordinate the efforts of Member States for promoting the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the Resolutions and for safeguarding their fundamental human rights." The OIC 'Contact Group' on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations comprising of Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the OIC Secretary General was subsequently established.

(c) and (d) The Government has conveyed India's views on the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir appropriately to its Members.

Indo-Pak clash over Kashmir at UN

2225. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether clash between India and Pakistan over Kashmir in United Nations has been reported in recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government have time and again repeated that Kashmir is an integral part of India in all International Conferences;

(d) if so, reasons for allowing Pakistan to raise the issue again and again in each International Conference/Meet;

(e) whether Government propose to boycott such Conferences in future where Pakistan raises or allowed to raise "Kashmir Issue"; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan has attacked India in several statements at the current UN General Assembly.

(c) Yes, Sir;

(d) The rules of procedure of UN bodies permit member-States to make references to any issues they wish;

(e) No, Sir.

(f) International conferences, including those at the UN, consider issues of vital importance to India, and Government's absence would mean that the Indian case, including on Kashmir, would go by default.

Statement by the U.S. Ambassador to India on Indo-Pak dispute over Kashmir

2226. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a statement made by the U.S. Ambassador to India at Washington ruling out third party intercession in the Indo-Pak dispute over Kashmir;